Therefore, there is no need to import foodgrains at present or in the immediate future.

(b) Does not arise.

Proposal for cancellation of sugar import contracts

5125. SHRI GUNDAPPA KORWAR: Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any proposal to cancel the pending sugar import contracts;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) to (c) With a view to ensure adequate availability of sugar, State Trading Corporation Ltd. and Minerals and Metals Trading Corporation Ltd. have entered into forward contracts for import of about 4.05 lakh tonnes of sugar. There is no proposal at present to cancel the aforesaid contracts already entered into.

Plan to check hoarding of sugar

5126. SHRI GUNDAPPA KORWAR: Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated any multifarious action plan to bring the hoarded stock of sugar in the open market;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) The primary responsibility for curbing malpractices like hoarding, blackmarketing, etc. lies with the State Governments under the provisions of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 and various regulatory orders issued thereunder.

(b) and (c) The State Governments have been requested to ensure stricts enforcement of the regulatory orders pertaining to sugar/khandsari dealers and also check unlawful trade activities through freuent inspection of their accounts and other records as well as their stocks.

The price of freesale sugar in the open market has remained at reasonable levels during recent months. The wholesale price index of sugar which was 247.1 in June, 1994, came down to 228.0 in October, 1994 and 218.4 in March, 1995.

Setting up of sugar mills in Gujarat

5127. SHRI SANGH PRIYA GAUTAM: Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) what is the annual average production of sugar mills set up in Gujarat as on date;

(b) whether this production is less than the national average;

(c) if so, what is the total production, year-wise during the last three years, as against the national average;

(d) what is the total quantity of sugarcane which is being made available to the aforesaid sugar mills each year as against the national average; and

(e) what steps have been taken by the Government to bring the present production of sugarcane in Gujarat at par with the national average?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) and (b) The average installed sugar production capacity of a sugar mill in Gujarat States as on 31.01.1995 was 0.415 lak tonnes as against the national average of 0.2718 lakh tonnes.

(c) and (d) The required inormation is as under:—

Sugar Season	Cane crushed (lakh tonnes)		Sugar Production (lakh tonnes)	
	Gujarat	All India	Gujarat	All India
1991-92	67.63	1339.99	7.53	134.11
1992-93	66.25	1029.71	1.51	106.09
1993-94 (Provisional)	74.42	980.52	8.26	98.12

(e) The Government have taken/ initiated the following measures in order to give a boost to the sugarcane production during 1994-95 sugar season:—

(i) Early-crushing incentives have been announced in the form of higher freesale quota at 72 per cent, as against the normal entitlement of 60 per cent to sugar mills for the production achieved during the period 1.10.1994 to 15.11.1994.

(ii) Late-crushing incentives have been announced in the form of higher freesale quota at 75 per cent, as against the normal entitlemen tof 60 per cent sugar mills for the production achieved during the period 1.10.1994 to 15.11.1994.

(iii) The Statutory Minimum Price (SMP) of sugarcane for 1994-95 season has been raised to Rs. 39.10 per quintal linked to the basic recovery of 8.5 per cent with a premium of Rs. 0.46 for every 0.1 per cent point increase in the recovery above that level upto 10 per cent and Rs. 0.60 for every 0.1 per cent point increase in the recovery above 10 per cent.

(iv) An advance announcement of SMP for 1995-96 season has also been made at Rs. 42.50 per quintal linked to a basic recovery of 8.5 per cent, subject to premium for higher recoveries.

(v) Loans are also being provided from the Sugar Development Fund at concessional rates of interest to sugar factories for undertaking cane development schemes in their areas of operation.

Estimated Production and Requirement of sugar

5128. DR. BAPU KALDATE: Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) what are the details of sugar production during the year 1993-94 and what is estimated production during current year;

(b) what is the estimated consumption of sugar during current year and whether consumption is more than the estimated production and if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have decided to import 5 lakh tonnes of sugar during this year and if so, what are the details thereof including the expenditure involved therein;

(d) whether it is also a fact that sugar prices have again started showing upward trend and if so, the details thereof and measure taken to arrest the price rise?